



# WHAT WILL BE THE IMPACT OF A \$7 MILLION BUDGET SHORTFALL ON PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES?

*The Governor's Recommended FY2012 Budget would cut supports from people currently receiving services to meet the needs of about 175 new people ~ including high school graduates. The reductions equal 5%, and follow reductions of 3.75% in FY2009 and another 1% in July 2010. The system is already lean, and these cuts will change the system of care Vermonters value, based on what we know from what has already happened.*

## FACTS TO CONSIDER:

- ***Vermont now serves only 27% of people who are eligible ~ 3545 of 13,145 people***
- ***Vermont's waiting list has grown due to narrowing priorities for funding ~ now 209 people***
- ***Cuts totaling \$6.5 Million have already eroded programs, staff, services and supports***
- ***FY2009 & FY2010 cuts resulted in a loss of \$4 million in federal funds~ \$1.50 lost for every \$1 "saved"***
- ***Regional agencies decided cuts, so what happened to people depended on where they live***

## WHAT WE KNOW about the rollbacks:

- Agencies reduced ***hundreds*** of individual budgets and terminated over 150 staff
- People lost services that supported them to work and get paid
- People lost supports that helped them be part of the community
- People lost clinical supports that keep them out of crisis and help them communicate
- Fundamental changes have been made in the way we serve people that undermine community supports and self-determination:
  - ***People were moved to "wrap" services provided by a single individual that isolates them and increases the potential for harm and abuse.***
  - ***People were switched to group services that marginalize them within their communities.***

## There are also hidden costs:

- Time and expenses to recruit and train staff necessitated by high staff turnover:
  - Loss of staff due to reductions in hours, benefits and cost-of-living increases.
  - Loss of shared home providers due to reduced stipends, loss of cost-of-living increases and reductions in respite.
  - Loss of families able to keep family members at home.
- Emergency room and inpatient care due to cuts in preventive services like clinical and behavioral support.
- Higher level and cost of care following a crisis to replace family or shared home provider services after critical supports like respite are cut.
- Taxes when people with developmental disabilities, family members and experienced staff lose or have to give up jobs.

## THE OVERALL IMPACT IS SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN HOW SERVICES ARE DELIVERED IN VERMONT THAT:

- **HURT INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES**
- **UNDERMINE VERMONT'S COMMUNITY BASED SYSTEM OF CARE**
- **ARE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO REVERSE**

## **FY2009 & FY2010 Rescissions: What Happened?**

Reducing budgets by \$6.5 million has already changed how services are delivered in Vermont. (\$1.67 million in August 2008, \$3.3 million in December 2008, and \$1.5 million in July 2010.\*)

### **IMPACT ON INDIVIDUALS with DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:**

- All areas of service and supports to individuals were reduced, including:
  - \*\* Clinical supports
  - \*\* Employment supports
  - \*\* Respite services
  - \*\* Support services to access the community
  - \*\* Goods budgets that provided assistive technology, adaptive equipment, communication devices, and access to health & wellness activities
  - \*\* Transportation & mileage budgets, impacting jobs & community access
- Program quality diminished:
  - \*\* People moved from individual community supports to group supports
  - \*\* People moved to "wrap" services i.e. home provider is sole support person in all settings due to elimination of community support staff
- Programs eliminated:
  - \*\* Global campus initiative
  - \*\* Crisis bed & crisis emergency funding

### **STAFF IMPACT**

- \*\* Staff position cuts included job developers & employment, community and residential direct support
- \*\* Staff hours cut, resulting in loss of benefits
- \*\* Staff changed to contracted services without benefits
- \*\* Caseload increases
- \*\* Reduction in payments to home care providers
- \*\* Elimination of cost-of-living adjustments to staff, respite & on-call providers

\*There are few places left to cut. The 1% reduction in July 2010 resulted in 545 people losing direct services like job and community supports; 179 families and home providers lost respite supports; and 94 people lost clinical communication support. Net job loss was 61.5 FTE. The impact was uneven, with people losing direct services at 6 of 16 agencies ~ about 45% of the state's population. Depending on the agency, between 11% and 58% lost services; 91% of people who self & family managed lost services.

[Information on 2008 and 2010 rescissions was compiled from documents received from Division of Disability and Aging Services, Dept. of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living that collected information from agencies.]

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